

City of Bainbridge Island Design Review Board

2016 Annual Report to the City Council

The City of Bainbridge Island Design Review Board, CoBI DRB, is made up of seven volunteer citizens:

Susan	Bergen	Resigned June
Jeff	Boon	
Chuck	Depew	Resigned June
Joe	Dunstan	Appointed July
Alan	Grainger	Chair
Chris	Gutsche	
Jim	McNett	
Peter	Perry	
Jason	Wilkinson	Appointed July

With Ron Peltier City Council Liaison

During 2016 the DRB held fifteen meetings, with a total of 240 hours spent by the Board in meetings with roughly a similar commitment of time spent in preparation. The Board was fortunate to have regular attendance by Ron Peltier, our City Council liaison, and benefited from the regular attendance of Charles Schmid, an interested citizen. In the first quarter, the Chair of the DRB attended the interviews for the new Planning Director, and in the second quarter along with Ron Peltier, interviewed the four applicants to fill the two vacant positions resulting from resignations of Chuck Depew and Susan Bergen. Chuck and Susan's service to the board was much appreciated. Very qualified new members, Joseph Dunstan and Jason Wilkinson, filled their positions.

Projects reviewed throughout the year included Historic Preservation, Healthcare, Hospitality, Fire Stations, Schools – public and private, Multifamily, Single Family/HDDP, and Art and Craft Workspace. Spread over the year were City briefings about Open Meetings, Ethics, and in December, an introduction to the new requirements (January 2017) for Low Impact Development. Assistance was also given to an Eagle Scout for a proposed Sign project.

DRB recurring issues over the past year, that we hope will be addressed in 2017, included the apparent unchecked tree removal associated with proposed subdivisions, the lack of post occupancy review (particularly landscape relative to approved documents), the proliferation of sandwich boards in the Winslow core detracting from the pedestrian experience and clear access, and finally ongoing discussions about the DRB process and scope of work.

In their first meeting of 2017 the DRB unanimously passed two motions that stated:

- the top priority in the new Comprehensive Plan must be environmental stewardship to prevent irreversible damage to Bainbridge Island, and
- sustainable design is good design and the DRB recommends adoption of the Living Building Challenge as well as the Architecture 2030 energy targets for all municipal projects, and that for private development the City adopts a minimum green building code modeled after that of the City of Seattle for a green building baseline, and a more restrictive green building standard for those seeking increased density.